



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Atty. Dkt.: Q65479

Kiyoshi IWANAGA, et al.

Appln. No. 09/889,625

Group Art Unit: 1754

Confirmation No.: 6942

Examiner: Unknown

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. European Patent Application No. 0 936 184 A2, published August 18, 1999. This reference is discussed within the specification beginning at page 12, line 23 and also corresponds to pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/249,100.
2. U.S. Patent No. 5,639,436, issued June 17, 1997 to Benson et al.
3. U.S. Patent No. 5,908,607, issued June 1, 1999 to Abekawa et al.
4. European Patent Application No. 0 861 803 A1, published September 2, 1998.
5. European Patent Application No. 0 761,593 A1, published March 12, 1997.
6. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 9-118503, published May 6, 1997, with an English Abstract as well as a partial English translation.

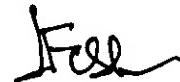
IWANAGA et al.
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Information Disclosure Statement

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith although it is indicated in the Notification of Acceptance of Application Under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.494 or 1.495 that a copy of the International Search Report and copies of the references cited therein (References 2-5 listed above) have been received..

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application:

Respectfully submitted,



J. Frank Osha
Registration No. 24,625

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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